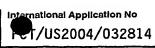
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 A61F13/15 A61F IPC 7 A61F13/56 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 4 133 307 A (NESS RICHARD A) 1,2 χ 9 January 1979 (1979-01-09) column 1, lines 36-54 column 2, line 54 - column 3, line 13 Υ US 6 159 584 A (EATON BRADLEY W ET AL) 1,13-15 12 December 2000 (2000-12-12) column 2, line 59 - column 3, line 15 US 5 779 691 A (SCHMITT ACHIM) X 1.13 - 1514 July 1998 (1998-07-14) column 1, line 42 - column 2, line 21; figure 1 Α US 6 142 968 A (ROBINSON JOSEPH WILLIAM 1-12 ET AL) 7 November 2000 (2000-11-07) column 2, line 35 - column 3, line 65 X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 21/01/2005 14 January 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Lanniel, G



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